

Reference #: 2025-96-IP
From: Inpatient & Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development & Program Support
Sent: September 19, 2025
To: IQR Improve
Subject: Addendum Release of Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures, Version 5.18a

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determined that an addendum is required for the *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures*, Version 5.18a, for implementation with acute inpatient discharges effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. The addendum has been posted to QualityNet (<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>) for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program.

Among other updates, this addendum reflects the removal of four measures from the Hospital IQR Program as established in the [Fiscal Year 2026 final rule](#):

- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel
- Hospital Commitment to Health Equity
- Screening for Social Drivers of Health
- Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health

Updates to Appendix A.1 is of special interest: Appendix A.1 reflects the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 code updates for fiscal year 2026 effective for October 1, 2025 and forward discharges. Table 4.01: Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock (SEP) was updated.

Access this updated version on [QualityNet](#) by selecting the Hospitals - Inpatient link. Then, select the *View all Specification Manuals* link. You may download the entire manual, download the release notes, or view specific sections of the manual. A complete list of changes to the specification manual is in Version 5.18a of the release notes. The direct link is:

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/inpatient/specifications-manuals#tab1>

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https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=ask_a_question or (844) 472-4477.